



16Style

Meet the fashion pick of
the week and check out
his style



News

MassPIRG sends new
coordinator to campus,
again

NECC Observer

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.

They're baaaack!



Brenda Bolduc photo

Students were anxious to register for classes during one-stop registration last week.

NECC offers new four-year program

*Colleges team up to
continue education at
NECC*

By JOSHUA BROWN
News Editor

Even though we just had three months of summer doesn't mean NECC put anything on hold. While we were taking in those sunrays the administration here at NECC were developing a partnership with Salem State College. Offering a first time program this fall, students will be able to earn a bachelor's degree from Salem State by attending classes on the Haverhill and Lawrence campuses of NECC.

"This is an excellent opportunity

for our students," NECC President David F. Hartleb president said in a press release.

The two colleges are teaming up to offer three bachelor's degree completion programs. Students with associate's degrees from NECC in selected areas will have the opportunity to directly transfer to the program of their choice, which include: registered nurse to bachelor's of science in nursing (RN-BSN), a bachelor's of social work, and a bachelor of science in business administration (management concentration).

Professors from Salem State will travel to NECC to teach the courses which will be offered in the evenings. The courses, aim to help the working student who want to continue their education but have to balance a job or other obligations.

"We encourage students to continue their education and this will make it easier for them to do that," said Hartleb.

The NECC campus in Lawrence, home to the Registered Nursing Program, will also be the new home for the two bachelor level nursing courses available this fall. The new courses are Transition for Licensed Nursing, offered Mondays from 4:30 to 6:50 p.m., and Medical Ethics, also offered Mondays from 7 to 9:20 p.m.

The Haverhill campus will open its doors for the two new courses in the Business Administration Management Program and two new courses in the Social Work Program. "Managerial Accounting" and

See Four-year program page 6

Fees on the rise for '05

*Students may be
paying more for
classes in the spring*

By LAUREN E. CARROLL
Editor

Students should expect to pay an additional \$6 per credit hour in the spring semester starting Jan. 24, 2005, which will translate into an increase of \$80 for students with a full course load. Due to a 2 percent budget cut across the state, fees will be expected to rise. The college Finance Committee proposed the increase two weeks ago when the rates of contracts and salaries were on the rise and the budget was on the decline.

"This is the fourth year in a row we have had a budget cut," said NECC President David Hartleb.

For the past three, years in order to compensate for the budget cuts, Hartleb had to terminate positions on campus. This year he says that he doesn't want to do that any more so raising the fees was his next option.

"I'm not going to fire anybody this year. I can't layoff anybody without reducing the programs," said Hartleb.

The expenses of the college have risen a great deal in the past year. The electrical rates rose over \$100,000 and the college will pay significantly more for security and cleaning services.

After three years the college re-negotiates its contracts with the security and cleaning companies. This year the lowest bid for the cleaning services was up \$100,000. Last year NECC paid SJ Cleaners a total of \$305,000. This year with the raise in the contract price, NECC will be paying the company \$393,000.

"Studies show that well-cleaned and maintain colleges and campuses produce more people who will attend," according to Mark Andrews, the vice president of administration.

There were a total of five to six

bidders open to the competitive process and NECC got the lowest bidder who has been with the school for the past five years.

Security is another big issue here on campus. The lowest bidder for the security contract was again Eagle Security, but this time the bid had increased by \$150,000. The cost of security for last year was \$350,000. NECC is paying Eagle Security \$441,000 this year. The reason for the increase is due to the higher enrollment rate of the college that increase the amount of security on campus and the installment of high-tech security cameras on all the buildings.

"We want to provide the safest environment for our students. We have a model secure campus," said Andrews.

Due to the extreme freeze that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts experienced last year, electric and gas prices are expected to rise. Half of NECC's buildings have converted to gas heat to save money. This year the cost of electricity has risen to a penny more per kilowatt. NECC uses a total of 10 million kilowatts per year. The cost of electricity has risen by \$125,000 and the cost of natural gas has risen by \$10,500.

Also on the rise are the salaries for part-time faculty, costing the college another \$300,000. Last year the NECC paid a total amount of \$2.7 million for teacher salaries and this year the cost is \$3 million. The state has also increased the salaries of the school's employees who are part of AFSCME, American Federal State County Municipal Employees. The salary increase is costing the college \$452,000.

Students will pay \$99 per credit this fall and in the spring the cost per credit will be \$105. Over the past ten years the fees have fluctuated due to the support from the state. Over the past four years the state support decreased by 17 percent. In the year 2001, students were paying \$73 per credit, the year after the fee was raised by

See Fees page 6

Opinion

A hello from the editor's desk

Hello students, staff and faculty of NECC, my name is Lauren Carroll. A new school year is here and a lot of changes are occurring and one of them is me. I am the new Observer Editor and that is a huge responsibility on my behalf. My job is to inform all of NECC the news and daily happenings here on campus. I want to keep the readership well informed.

The Observer is a very important piece of material that can be very useful and essential to students and staff. This paper is also the recipient of many awards, including the most recent from The Columbia Scholastic Press Association. We recently won a gold medal certificate for the spring issues of 2004.

I am a very proud editor in chief of the paper and of a new staff that I have under my wing. My

staff is very dear to me, and they are excellent writers, and I hope that all can find enjoyment and appreciation in their work.

I am a lucky girl to be part of such a program here at NECC. This school has brought me many opportunities and reasons to continue on with my education as I move onto my second year here. I am 19 years old and live in the wee town of Byfield, Mass. It's near Newburyport for anyone who was wondering.

My major is journalism and broadcasting and I immensely enjoy it. I'm not sure of my career goals but I'll be heading in the direction of the media, I'm sure.

I am very excited for a new school year with new faces, new classes and earning my associate's degree. I hope all enjoy the paper this fall and keep reading.

I DON'T SUPPORT A MARRIAGE AMENDMENT. MY DAUGHTER IS GAY, SO I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT THAT.



IS THAT HOW IT WORKS? YOU'RE INDIFFERENT TO PEOPLE'S HARDSHIPS UNTIL THEY AFFECT YOUR OWN FAMILY?



MAYBE IF YOUR DAUGHTER WAS UNEMPLOYED, OR UNINSURED, OR ON A FIXED INCOME AND NEEDING PRESCRIPTION DRUGS, YOU'D "KNOW SOMETHING" ABOUT THOSE PROBLEMS, TOO.



WE DID BURDEN HER GENERATION WITH CRUSHING DEBT! DOES THAT COUNT?



KRT

Observer publication schedule

For the benefit of those wishing to submit letters, announcements, or to purchase advertising, the Observer announces its Fall 2004 publication schedule.

Please contact the Observer staff with questions or information by calling 978-556-3633 or email us at: observer@necc.mass.edu.

Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
#1	Sept. 8	Sept. 1
#2	Sept. 22	Sept. 15
#3	Oct. 6	Sept. 29
#4	Oct. 20	Oct. 13
#5	Nov. 3	Oct. 27
#6	Nov. 17	Nov. 10
#7	Dec. 8	Dec. 1
#8	Dec. 15	Dec. 8

Roaming Reporter

As a non-traditional student, why have you decided to enroll in college?



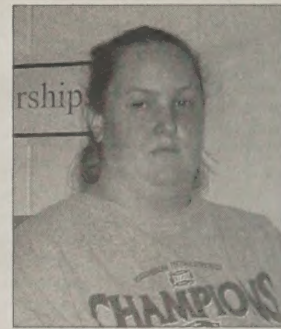
Sandra Walus, wants to major in Liberal Arts

"I just wanted to increase my education and get an associates in Liberal Arts and learn everything I can."



Michelle Lattime, Undecided

"I was laid off after 9/11, I worked in technology software support. I went back to school for Medical Transcription and that's what I'm doing now, but I'm not sure I like it, so I've decided to take a few classes and maybe change careers again."



Whitney Connolly, Criminal Justice

"I would like to major in Criminal Justice and eventually be a detective. I was scared to attend college, it's a big step for me, all my friends encouraged me to sign up, so here I am."

Photos/ Interviews by Brenda Bolduc



Randy Hanson, works as a self-taught Quality Engineer

"I'd like to be able to help my two kids with their homework, and possibly get an associate's in Mechanical Engineering."



Jasmin Garcia-Esto, mother of five children, two grandchildren

"It's time to take time for myself. I'd like to study Graphic Design or Interior Design."



Terri Tracy, mother of two boys

"I'm getting divorced, I don't think I have marketable skills for a job, so I'm thinking of going into Business Management Computer Applications."

NECC Observer

The award-winning student newspaper of Northern Essex Community College

Spring 2004 Gold Medalist
Columbia Scholastic Press Assn.

Address: Rm. C222 Spurk, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830

Newsroom: 978-556-3633 Adviser: 978-556-3397

Advertising: 978-556-3633 Email: observer@necc.mass.edu

The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit and condense all submissions.

Fall 2004 Editorial Staff

Editor: Lauren E. Carroll

News Editor: Joshua Brown

Opinion Editor: Brenda Bolduc

Arts & Entertainment Editor: Kelly L. Fitzgerald

Sports Editor: Jason Joaquin

Style Editor: Makeeba Fraser

Graphics Editor: Sokhary Sok

Circulation Manager: Kelly L. Fitzgerald

Ad Manager: Makeeba Fraser

Faculty Adviser: Amy Callahan

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Opinions

Teens consider violent gangs as family

By **BRENDA BOLDUC**
Opinion Editor

As children, we all believed we were invincible. As adults however, you become aware that this really isn't the case, and probably wonder how you ever managed to survive the crazy things you did in your youth.

Unfortunately the innocent feelings of being indestructible no longer exist for children, death to them is very real and a constant fear. Everyday they are witnesses to violence and death. It's in their schools, neighborhoods and on the news each day. Children worry about, gangs, drugs, and adults that want to exploit, abuse, and hurt them.

Parents both single, and two parent families are trying to make ends meet, requiring them to work all the time. In a lot of cases no one

is there waiting for them when they come home from school. Which leaves children to fend for themselves, protect themselves. Pushing teenagers to join gangs in order to survive, because, as we all know, there are safety in numbers. And that's just what gangs are, kids that feel lost and alone looking to fit in and get the feelings of security that their biological family hasn't been able to provide.

We have teenagers getting pregnant and wanting to keep their babies, thinking that love is all they need to raise them. When, fact is, love isn't what buys diapers or pays the rent. These teenagers are just looking for someone to love them unconditionally and have no clue what it takes to be a devoted parent. Our society is crumbling, our teenagers are rebelling and yet this country still acts surprised when we read or hear about another gang shooting.

As a society, if we don't become more involved in our youth, this society is doomed. When you decide to become a parent, you need to make damn sure you are able to meet their needs and be responsible for them 24 hours a day. If you don't want that responsibility, get a cat.

We also need to start holding

Judges and lawyers involved in the Social Services accountable for their decisions and actions regarding reuniting innocent children with their abusive parents, only to be abused and neglected over and over again. In most cases when you are found guilty of abusing an animal, they don't give you the animal back, but if you neglect and abuse a

child, society keeps trying to reunite them with their abusers. Do we as a society have a higher regard for animals safety than we do for children? And we wonder why our children have no regard for life, people, get a clue!

LETTERS

Thanks owed to many for Observer's new space

Dear college community,

The NECC Observer newspaper begins the academic year in a terrific new location, and there are many people whose work behind the project deserves recognition and thanks.

Superintendent of Buildings & Grounds Cliff Clarke oversaw the superb renovation of our new space on the second floor of Spurk, Room C222A/B. At every step of the way, his crew produced high quality work, and they were always attentive to the needs of the newspaper staff. We are grateful for their contributions.

We also owe our thanks to the staff in Client Computing, especially John Flynn, the "Mac guru" on campus, who worked many extra hours setting up the newsroom's computer network. He often arrived before us in the morning and worked into the evening. Without his dedication to

this project, we would not have been able to publish.

In addition, we thank Ron Taber for generously allowing the Observer to use the computer server in the Publications office. We also thank Jane Albert for her assistance.

Lastly, we thank the college leaders whose support for the project made everything possible. In particular, Vice President of Academic Affairs Paul Bevilacqua, Vice President of Administration Mark Andrews, Assistant Dean Cathy Sanderson, and Assistant Dean Nita Lamborghini were active supporters.

With sincere thanks to all,

Amy Callahan
Journalism Coordinator
Faculty Adviser,
NECC Observer

How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off your letter in our newsroom, located in Rm. C222 in the Spurk Building.

All letters must be signed and include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system.

Email: observer@necc.mass.edu

Mail: Letter to Editor
NECC Observer
100 Elliott Street
Haverhill, MA 01830

While the Observer attempts to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

Want advice? Ask Babs

Dear Babs,

I was in a relationship for four years that ended recently. So for the first time since I was 17 I was single. After a few months, when I was ready to start dating again, I decided that I didn't want anything serious. I just wanted to be 21.

One night at a bar with a friend we met a bunch of guys. We had fun with them and at the end of the night I gave one of them my phone number, figuring he wouldn't even remember me in the morning. But he did. He called me up and we made plans to have a lunch date. You see he was only in town for a short time so we didn't really have a chance to get to know each other. He was flying home to Pennsylvania after our date. He was even willing to change his flights so he could stay with me longer, but that didn't work out.

Needless to say we had a really great time and we made plans to see each other within the next month. We've played phone tag since then, but meanwhile I met someone else. Someone who I am now dating. Even though I never wanted anything too serious, this relationship has the

potential to go somewhere.

But now I have plans to see this other guy who is flying here all the way from Pennsylvania to see me. I don't know what to do. I like the guy I am dating a lot, and I don't want to jeopardize our future, but I also feel like I don't want to miss out on something else. I feel like if I don't see him I always wonder "what if." What can I do?

Signed,
Can't Decide

Dear Can't Decide,

Remember your young, you've just gotten out of a very long relationship, and you need to explore life and what your wants and needs are for yourself before committing to someone else. Dating is going out to dinner, a movie or hanging out. If you only date one man, how will you know what qualities you like and dislike in a man?

Be honest with the man you're dating now. Sit down with him and find out what kind of relationship

you have. Has he told you that he's stopped dating other people? Have you talked about being committed to just each other? These are things you need to ask before you decide what to do about the other young man from Pennsylvania.

As you go through life you'll always wonder, "what if." Everyone has regrets in their lives, if this is one of those things you think you'll regret, then my advice is to explore the possibilities you could have with this man. But, if you think this relationship with him will go nowhere, then you need to save him the time and money and tell him not to come.

No one wants to be alone, it's human nature to want to share life with someone. People need to remember, the best relationships are the kind that enhance your life, not consume it.

Your life should never revolve around someone else and vice-versa. The best thing you can do for yourself right now is to enjoy your freedom, meet new people, stop looking for someone to fulfill your life; only you can truly do that.

Meet Brenda Bolduc, Opinion Editor



Summer's over, I'd like to welcome everyone to the continually changing and improving NECC campus and this semester's first edition of the Observer.

My name is Brenda Bolduc. I'm 42 years old, and a Journalism major. This will be my third semester at NECC. I've been fortunate enough to be chosen as the Opinion Editor for the newspaper, and like so many, I've got an opinion and I'm not afraid to use it.

My topics will consist of things at NECC and the world

around us. I will give, and hope to receive, opinions on such things as, what to do about some of our homophobic politicians, the war in Iraq, the upcoming presidential elections, and both the good and bad here at the college. My motto has always been, if you feel the need to take a stand and complain about something, you either speak up and be heard, or sit down and shut up!

As well as going to school full time, I am a single parent of four almost grown children, and a foster mom to three teenage girls. That's right, I've got seven teenagers in my home.

Those reality TV shows have nothing on me; living on a tropical island for a month would be my dream vacation. I'm pretty sure the

contestants on the "Survivor" series couldn't last a week in my house. They'd beg to be voted out! Sadly, I, too, have been known to beg, but even Calgon won't take me away! All kidding aside, I do love what I do and wouldn't have it any other way.

It took me 23 years to figure out what I wanted to be when I grew up, and, frankly, I'm still not completely sure. I can say however, going back to school to further my education was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Whether it be students, teachers or NECC office staff, I look forward to receiving your opinions and having as many of them appear in the Observer as I can.

Opinion

Big companies are no longer loyal to employees

By KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor



Every day for the past eight years I walked into a job that I thought nothing of me. I was just a drone working for the queen.

When I started working at Wal-mart I was in high school and I never imagined I would have stayed for as long as I did.

I went to college after graduating, but that never really worked out. I was young, stupid and had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. I lived that life for five years.

One day like a smack in the face I was forced to look at my life. I was miserable, stuck in a rut, working at a job I hated. A job I was usually too embarrassed to admit I had.

I would see people from high school, they had degrees, real jobs, even families, and I still hadn't accomplished anything, or changed my life. I went back to school, but continued working at Wal-mart. I still hated going there, but with all

my years there, the money was good. Plus I could see the degree hanging in the distance. I knew I had my escape.

They were pretty accepting when I cut my hours to accommodate my school work. Although the company is no more than a joke to those who worked within its walls, I stayed.

I worked in the hectic one-hour photo lab. I was a good employee, I pulled my weight and never slacked off. I knew my stuff; I could do anything with a negative and a picture. I fixed the machines when they were down. I kept up that place with the help of a few other dedicated employees. I felt secure in my job. I always came to work, I was rarely late, but most of all, my knowledge always helped me. I never worried.

Then, incompetent managers were hired and fired weekly. They were hired untrained and not prepared to work in such a hectic environment. Managers weren't impressed that I knew so much, most of the time I knew more than them. I saw my security faltering. I tried to help as much as I could, but didn't feel I should have to do all the work.

Out of nine managers, nine we had within the year, I didn't get along with four of them. They used their power to punish me. In seven

years of faithful service I never got in trouble. I never even had a customer complaint. But within the last year I got three strikes against me, and we all know what that third strike means.

After eight years I was fired. Fired for something that there was no proof of. Someone made a mistake on the cash register. There were five people on that register that day. Everyone received his or her strikes, but for me, it was the final one. All I got was a pathetic, "I'm sorry." Eight years of my life, wasted.

All three of my strikes were for

ridiculous reasons. Strike one: I didn't take a lunch break because two other associates showed up to work three hours late. They had started these insanely strict break policies. One day I accidentally took my lunch five minutes late. With that I was suspended from work for one day. And of course strike three: my numbers were on a register where someone messed up a transaction.

In eight years I could have done so much more. I could have that degree already. I could be writing novels or be a reporter. I could have been a lot of things, but my

sense of false security and the lure of the dollar kept me in a job that did nothing more than hold me back.

Why do we go into jobs every day that we hate? Jobs that offer no future, or the recognition of a job well done. Is it our sense of responsibility?

We only get one life and we shouldn't settle for what's convenient, or what pays the bills. If more people took chances and tried to succeed in doing what they loved, there might be a few less Wal-mart cashiers, and success could be something within reach.

I was just a drone working for the queen.

Deadline for nomination petitions is noon, Friday, September 17, 2004

Student Board of Trustees Position Now Available

NECC is now looking for the 2004 - 2005 Student Representative to the college Board of Trustees. This position is effective until June 30, 2005.

The time commitment requires the student to:

- ⇒ Attend monthly meetings
- ⇒ Read materials prior to meetings.
- ⇒ Participate in additional meetings and retreats, as needed

Interested Students must be in good academic standing, have at least a 2.25 GPA and have registered for a minimum of 12 credits.

For more information, please stop by the Student Activities & Orientation Department.

Student Activities & Orientation
Haverhill Campus, Sport & Fitness Center D-117
Lawrence Campus, Dimitry Building L133

Get involved:

- Work with the College's Board of Trustees!
- Have input on important College issues and decisions!
- Strengthen your portfolio and resume!
- Learn how College governance really works!
- Keep abreast of key changes at the College!

Vote

Tel: 978 556 3731



Wanted:
Friendly, articulate students

For:
Alumni Thank-a-thon
To call donors to thank them for their support of the college during the past year!

This is an excellent volunteer opportunity for students who need community service hours

OR

You can be paid \$8.00/hour

When: September 22, 23, 29, 30
Choose the day(s) that best fit(s) your schedule!

Time: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Where: NECC Haverhill campus

Refreshments provided

For information contact:
Libby Jensen
Alumni Office
Room A301, Bentley Library
978-556-3621
Or email: alumni@necc.mass.edu

Wanted: Part-time Childcare

For two school aged children.
Requires flexible schedule.
Approx. 10-15 hours per week.
If interested, please call
Jayne Andrews at 978-375-2686.

Opinion

Success and confidence gained at NECC

BY DEREK BEDARD
Guest Columnist



I sit here in my living room with everything packed up and ready to go. Was I kicked out of my house? Kind of, but not really in the bad way that it could have gone. It's in the good way, which is I am going to Fitchburg State College, and it's because of NECC that I am doing it, and you can do it too.

You see I graduated high school in 2001, which for some of you guys and gals is not that long ago compared to when you may (or may not) have graduated yourself. When I graduated, I was sitting on my behind, working at Wal-Mart, thinking that all I'd need is a high school diploma to get anywhere, and I'd just take a year off.

Well, my financial situation was not getting much better so on the last day I possibly could, I ran down

to NECC and figured "what the hell" and signed up for classes. This was sort of a last ditch effort for me, who at the time told my high school guidance counselor that there was no way I would go to NECC, that it was beneath me, you know the whole nine yards.

So I ended up at NECC, and, in an effort to try to keep this from sounding like my life story, I considered dropping out. I was struggling in my classes and was at the end of my rope when I saw a sign advertising the Walt Disney World College Program, and, again, in total last second fashion, went to their presentation and listened to what they offered. I got in and rediscovered what I wanted in life, I wanted to succeed.

When I came back home I rededicated myself and went from someone who almost flunked out of high school, who probably would have been stuck at Wal-Mart forever in a go nowhere job, who almost gave up college, to someone who actually became a decent writer (although totally one sided), and — get this — made the dean's list, and, better yet, someone who got an associate's degree, which is the

most amazing thing of all.

Now if you're reading this and you're just starting out at NECC, fresh out of high school, or even someone who was laid off from work and trying to start fresh while being a single mother/father, whatever, and thinking that it's not worth it, or if you're thinking to yourself "Why am I here?"

I'm here to tell you that it may be tough, and you might not always walk on gold, but if you stick it out, it will be all worth it when you are walking out on that podium getting

your Associate's Degree, in front of all your family and friends. It will be the proudest moment of your life, and I can tell you first hand how good it feels. Look at it this way, not everybody who goes to NECC turns out like Hollywood celebrity Tom Bergeron. So you have to stay and stick it out, no matter how bad your Comp 1 term paper is, or how crappy your Calc test was. You'll hopefully turn out like me, someone who was almost DOA when it came to school and life in general who, thanks to NECC,

turned it around and became a success not only in school, but in life (so far anyways).

I will have succeeded yet again if one person reads this and decides to commit to turning it around. Well, actually, I won't have succeeded, but rather NECC will have, again, by giving someone else a fighting chance.

Derek Bedard is an alumnus of the NECC Journalism Program and a former columnist for the NECC Observer.

“

When I graduated, I was sitting on my behind, working at Wal-Mart, thinking that all I'd need is a high school diploma to get anywhere.

UPS CAREER DAY AT NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND FROM 10:30 AM TO 1:30 PM & TUITION ASSISTANCE PRESENTATION FROM 12:15 PM TO 12:30 PM

AT THE HAVERHILL CAMPUS SPORT & FITNESS CENTER LOBBY

UPS WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH YOU THE MANY PART-TIME OPPORTUNITIES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AND THE BENEFITS OF THE COLLEGE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

**GET THE FACTS ON HOW YOU CAN GET
UP TO \$1,500 IN TUITION ASSISTANCE PER SEMESTER!**



**CAREER OPPORTUNITIES • UPS BONUS PROGRAM
UNPARALLELED BENEFITS PACKAGE
GREAT STARTING WEEKLY PAY • AND MUCH MORE!!!**

IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND, PLEASE CALL DAVID: 978-441-3691 EXT. 4021

www.upsjobs.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

UPS and the UPS brandmark are registered trademarks of United Parcel Service of America, Inc. All rights reserved.

Fees expected to rise in spring

Continued from page 1

three dollars. In 2003 the fee was \$89. A year later the fee increased by \$10. In the spring of 2005, NECC will be receiving \$300,000 from its students due to the six dollar increase of the fee.

"I really hate to do it, but over the past four years we have experienced a 25 percent budget cut and I don't want to lose anymore employees," said Hartleb.

Hartleb says NECC still has the

lowest fees in the state. Middlesex Community College is raising its fees to \$9 a credit hour and Cape Cod Community College is raising its fees to \$16 per credit hour this fall.

"We want to ease into the raising of fees in the spring rather than the fall," said Andrews.

For the year 2004 the Board of Trustees approved a budget of \$26,860,984. For the year of 2005 the projected revenue is \$28,133,324, which includes the

\$300,000 from the raised fees.

Hartleb says he believes the increase in fees won't reduce the rate of enrollment at NECC.

Students have mixed feelings about the hike in fees.

"I think it's still well worth it," said Kathy Teahan, a medical-coding major "you get a good education and the



Lauren Carroll photo

Vice President of Administration Mark Andrews, right, and Comptroller Mark Casey look over the budget plan.

price is still reasonable."

Troy Alaimo, an engineering major believes that "cheaper would be better."

The Finance Committee proposed to raise fees which will be voted on at the Trustees meeting held on Wednesday Sept. 8.

Four-year program now offered

Continued from page 1

"Business Ethics" will be offered to students on Tuesday evenings. "Human Behavior & Social Environment" and "History of U.S. Social Welfare," will be offered to students on Thursday evenings.

Since the fall of 2003 Salem State has held a similar part-

nership with Middlesex Community College in the areas of sociology, criminal justice and early childhood education.

“

This is an excellent opportunity for our students

-David Hartleb

"Physically and financially, Salem State College is trying to make its programs as accessible as it can to the greatest population of students possible," Dr. Ariene Greenstein, dean of the continuing education at Salem State College, said in a release.

To register or for more information on the program, contact Connie Neilson in the Salem State College Division of Continuing Education, (978) 542-6935 or connie.neilson@salemstate.edu. Information is also available on the Salem State College Web site, www.salemstate.edu/ce.

Student Senate Needs You!

5 Reasons to get involved:

- Meet other students!
- Free giveaways!
- Meet the college administration!
- Looks good on resume!
- Trip to Cape Cod!

Student Senate Positions Now Available

Are you interested in getting involved on campus?

Are you interested in learning more about parliamentary procedure?

The NECC Student Senate is now looking for 15 interested students to get involved. The time commitment is minimal, and the requirements include:

- ⇒Attending weekly videoconference meetings
- ⇒Participating in other meetings, as needed

Interested Students must have at least a 2.25 GPA and have registered for a minimum of 6 credits.

For more information, please stop by the Student Activities & Orientation Department for more information.



Student Activities & Orientation
Haverhill, Sport & Fitness Center, D117
Lawrence, Dimitry Building L133

Tel: 978 556 3731

Month of Welcome Activities



Wednesday, September 8
11-1PM Airbrush Art—LAW



Thursday, September 9
11-1PM Teddy Bear Day—both campuses



Monday, September 13
12-1PM Back to School Game & Prizes—LAW



Tuesday, September 14
11-1PM Creative Names—LAW



Wednesday, September 15
Sport & Fitness Center Open House—HAV



Monday, September 20—HAV
Wednesday, September 22—LAW
11-1PM College Life & Campus Services Fair



Monday, September 27—LAW
Wednesday, September 29—HAV
12-1PM Making College Count

Sponsored by College Life & Healthy Living Unit, Student Activities & Orientation Department.
For more information, contact Student Activities & Orientation at 978-738-7417.
To request a sign language interpreter, please call 978-556-3897 (V/TTY).

Student earns full tuition to UMass

A 2004 Northern Essex Community College Business Transfer student, Joseph Pulvirenti of Methuen, is one of eleven community college students statewide to receive The Foster Furcolo Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

This is a full two-year tuition and mandatory fee scholarship for a promising graduate of the state's community colleges who has been accepted to UMass Boston for the 2004 fall semester. Pulvirenti will major in Business Management at UMass Boston.

A graduate of Methuen High School, Pulvirenti is the son of Sandra and Giuseppe Pulvirenti, both of Methuen.

Recipients must have completed an Associate's Degree, maintain at least a 3.5 G.P.A., and be a qualified Massachusetts resident.

The Foster Furcolo Scholarship Program was established in honor of the former Massachusetts Governor Foster Furcolo (1957-1960), who played a major role in the creation of the public community college system of the Commonwealth.

For more information contact Libby Jensen, Director of Alumni and Donor Relations at NECC, at 978-556-3621 or ljensen@necc.mass.edu.



Joseph Pulvirenti

Send us your news

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please email information to observer@necc.mass.edu. Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

MassPIRG has new hopes with new coordinator

MassPIRG welcomes new leader, David Spore, with open arms

BY LAUREN E. CARROLL
Editor

MassPIRG has a new leader in position for this fall and he plans on sticking around for a while. David Spore, 22 and a new resident of Haverhill for a week and a half, has been hired to fill the position of the coordinator of MassPIRG.

In the past, MassPIRG coordinators had the reputation of leaving after one semester or half way through without completing their projects. Last year's coordinator, Patrick Carey, up and left without mentioning a reason for his departure.

In order to prevent the possibility of another coordinator leaving the organization prematurely and having multitudes of unfinished projects, NECC's coordinator of student activities, Dina Brown, plans to have one or two on-campus advisors.

"We have had failed leaders and

projects that fell through. Campus advisors will take charge if that happens again," Brown said.

According to Brown, a MassPIRG coordinator is not paid a large salary and their position is not long term.

"There are always monetary and life issues. Sometimes things just don't work out," she said.

Brown has new hopes now with a new coordinator ready to take charge and full action on campus this fall.

Spore is originally from Virginia Beach, Va. and a fresh graduate from the University of Virginia, where he majored in history and politics. After graduating last spring he attended a career fair where he first learned about MassPIRG.

"It's a really cool group where young people are thrown a lot of responsibility right off the bat," Spore said.

Spore has been training the whole month of August, during which he was taught basic principles of running campaigns, recruitment, different strategies for being a leader and organization skills. The training also ensured that all leaders knew each campaign in depth.

Spore said he already has many

ideas storming away in his brain and he is very excited. He will be introducing different campaigns to NECC this fall such as the new voters project, the hunger and homeless campaign, and figuring a plan on how to reduce the cost of textbooks for students.

"This is a student operated program where students control the direction," said Spore. "Students should be the driving force on campus."

MassPIRG is a non-profit organization. On all students tuition bills there is an option for students to donate \$7 to this program as a way to bring in money to fund campaigns. According to documents, only 351 students out of 6,300 had chosen to donate \$7 this fall, which is less than 10 percent of the



Lauren Carroll photo

David Spore is very excited to get the year rolling as the new leader of MassPIRG.

student body. The total amount of money MassPIRG received this fall was \$2,457. This figure came as no surprise to Brown as it roughly stays the same each semester, she said. Brown is hoping that NECC will increase the amount of funding for this program and that more students will join.

Professor Morin wins statewide recognition as pioneer in e-learning

Seventeen professors from Massachusetts state and community colleges were recognized as e-learning pioneers at the first annual Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO) E-Learning Conference which was held June 14 through 16 at Bridgewater State College.

Among those honored was NECC's Professor Gerry Morin, who teaches in the History and Government Department.

Courses taught by these professors were selected from over 700 courses offered through MCO, a consortium of the nine state and 15 community colleges in Massachusetts designed to deliver online education. In addition to accepting an award plaque, Courses of Distinction (COD) recipients each were invited to present their course at the conference as part of the Best Practices Showcase.

Each professor was nominated by the chief academic officer and the MCO liaison on their campus. Faculty members were recommended for selection based on the success of their course and their innovative use of technology as a tool to enhance the teaching and learning process.

"These faculty are using technology in amazing ways," said David Kelley, executive director of MCO. "They're encouraging and increasing online interaction between themselves and their students and students within the class; bringing their students around the world through the Internet; and developing ways to help insure students succeed academically."

"Online education breaks down the barriers to education; it's all about access," said Kelley.

"Through technology and online delivery, these pioneering faculty members are making a quality education available to everyone."

Over 250 educators attended the Conference on E-Learning and because of its success it will become an annual event, according to Kelley. "It was a very exciting three days. State and community college educators recognize the potential of online learning and are eager to share ideas and solutions."

Selected to receive a Course of Distinction (COD) Award from MCO for successful and innovative online courses were:

Michael Bejtlich of Rochester, MA, professor, Business Management, Cape Cod Community College, "Introduction to Entrepreneurship"

Rachel Boersma of Pepperell, MA, clinical instructor, Nursing, Fitchburg State College, "Introduction to Forensic Nursing"

Patricia Colella of Winchester, MA, professor, English, Bunker Hill Community College, "Introduction to Literature"

Mary Ellen DuBois of Norfolk, MA, adjunct instructor, Framingham State College, "Internet for Educators"

Bert Engvall of Upton, MA, mathematics instructor, Self-Paced Studies Center, Middlesex Community College, "Fundamentals of Mathematics"

Jackie Griswold of Palmer, MA, associate professor, Human Services,

Holyoke Community College, "Human Development"

Anne Hird of Providence, RI, assistant professor and coordinator of Instructional Technology, Bridgewater State College, "Foundations of Instructional Technology"

Sally Kodzis of Millis, MA, associate professor, Nursing, Mass Bay Community College, "Foundations of Nursing" (Kodzis worked in collaboration with Susan Mullaney of Medway, MA, professor, Nursing; Emilie Packer of Holliston, MA, instructional designer; Jeanne Soucy of Concord, MA, associate professor, Nursing; and Carol Staffier of Avon, MA, associate dean for community and corporate education)

Marie Looby of Rockland, MA, adjunct instructor, Computer Technology and Information Management, Massasoit Community College, "Introduction to Computer Graphics"

Alfonsina Minchella of Medford, MA, Professor, Business & Technology, Roxbury Community College, "Business Law I"

Gerry Morin of Belmont, MA, professor, History and Government, Northern Essex Community College, "World Civilization II"

Sheila Murphy of Gardner, MA, professor, Psychology, Mount Wachusett Community

College, "Introduction to Psychology"

Carol Roberts of South Hadley, MA, adjunct faculty and retired dean of social sciences, Springfield Technical Community College, "Introduction to Psychology"

Robert Schilling of South Deerfield, MA, professor, Computer Information Systems, Greenfield Community College, "Java Programming"

Mary Zahm of Middletown, RI, professor, Psychology, Bristol Community College, "General Psychology"

Steve Zona of Worcester, MA, professor, Math, Quinsigamond Community College, "College Mathematics I: Precalculus"

Terri Whitney of South Hamilton, MA, professor, English, North Shore Community College, "Nathaniel Hawthorne in Cultural Context: Stories, Art and Artifacts"

Massachusetts Colleges Online (MCO) is a consortium of the 15 community colleges and nine state colleges in Massachusetts. The institutions have joined to share their convenient and flexible online courses and programs with students throughout the state and beyond.

For the latest information on MCO, including one-stop shopping for online course offerings across the state, visit the website at www.mco.mass.edu.

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Consumer spending rebounds over summer

WASHINGTON (AP) After taking a rest in June, the nation's consumers were full of energy in July, boosting their spending by 0.8 percent, a hopeful sign the economy may be emerging from a summer funk.

The over-the-month increase in consumer spending, reported by the Commerce Department on last week, marked a turnaround from the 0.2 percent decline registered in June, when high energy prices and a sluggish job market made for more cautious buyers.

The 0.8 percent rise, the largest since May, was slightly better than the 0.7 percent increase some economists were expecting.

"Consumer spending rebounded on the strength of rebate-induced auto sales," said Stuart Hoffman, chief economist at PNC Financial Services Group.

Civil suit against Kobe Bryant still looms

EAGLE, Colo. (AP) The sexual assault charge against Kobe Bryant has been dropped, but his accuser—whose reluctance to participate derailed the criminal trial before it ever really got started— isn't letting the NBA star off the hook just yet.

The criminal case was dropped last week, but the 26-year-old Los Angeles Lakers star still faces a federal civil lawsuit seeking unspecified damages. That case is still on, said L. Lin Wood, the woman's attorney.

"There has been no settlement of the civil lawsuit, and there have been no discussions concerning a settlement," he said.

Colorado's Sen. Coors holds investments in top polluter

DENVER (AP) Republican Senate candidate Pete Coors' investments include a stake in a gold mining company that the Environmental Protection Agency ranks among the worst polluters in the nation.

Toronto-based Barrick Gold Corp. was ranked as the worst polluter in 1998 and as the fifth worst polluter in 2002, the most recent year that data are available. Arsenic, cyanide, lead and mercury were released at its mines.

A year later the company successfully sued to change the way toxic releases are reported. A judge ruled that Barrick Gold and other companies do not have to count material they mine if it is not processed to extract gold.

Coors' share of Barrick, which was listed on a financial disclosure submitted to the secretary of state in May, is valued at between \$50,000 and \$115,000.

College announces many new hires and promotions

By JOSHUA BROWN
News Editor

It is fall semester and that means there will be many new faces on the NECC campuses. That doesn't just mean new students, but faculty as well.

Since the end of last semester there have been 23 new additions and promotions to the faculty and staff. Ranging from the music department to the math department, there will be someone new in almost every area of NECC.

"It's a very welcoming environment the staff and faculty have helped me adjust here to NECC life," said Janis Rogers, the new English as a Second Language Curriculum Coordinator.

Rogers holds a master's in Art in Teaching English as a Second Language and Spanish from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vt. Her undergraduate degree is in Spanish and Latin American Studies at Brown University. She comes to NECC from Bunker Hill Community College in Charlestown, where she served as ESL assessment specialist for the past two years.

NECC also welcomes Alisa Bucchiere as a new addition to the music department.

"In a way, teaching here at NECC is like coming home," she said.

Bucchiere has a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Music Education at Boston University. She received her Master of Music from Westminster Choir College and her Bachelor's of Music from the University of Lowell. She is currently here at NECC teaching both music theory and history as well as conducting the choir. Also she will be working with the Top Notch Theater here at NECC this fall, music directing the production of "Blood Brothers." Bucchiere also teaches music at Fitchburg State College and accompanies the choirs there.

The following is a list of all new additions to and promotions in the faculty and staff at NECC:

Gerri Gergenti is a graduate of Northern Essex Community College (AA Secretarial Science), has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education and an MBA from Rivier College. Her most recent position was as the Post Employment Services Coordinator at the Valley Works Career Center. She joins the college as the Tech Prep Coordinator in the Center for Adult & Alternative Studies.

Mary Power has a BA in English from Manhattanville College. Mary started out at NECC working in Human Resources. She then moved to the GED Test Center where she was a part-time Alternate GED Examiner. She is now a full-time staff associate with the responsibility of coordinating GED Testing, CLEP and Dantes Testing, and the CIS Challenge Exam program.

DIVISION OF BUSINESS, MATH, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Kathy Proietti became acting Assistant Dean of the Business, Math, Science and Technology Division in July. She has an Associates degree in Business Management from NECC. She has a Bachelors degree in Business Administration from UNSH and two Masters degrees - one in ESL, and one in Computer Education, both from Nova Southeastern University.

Math Faculty (Title V):

Mariana Montiel will be the Title V Math instructor. She is a PhD candidate in Mathematics Education at UNH, and a Masters in Pure Math from National Autonomous University of Mexico where she graduated Summa Cum Laude. Mariana has been an Instructor at the Thompson School of Applied Sciences at UNH since 2003 and an instructor at New Hampshire technical Community College in Foundations of College Math, Numerical Algebra and Trigonometry.

Business Faculty:

Kelly Lalonde has a Masters in Finance, BS Accountancy; honors, cum laude from Bentley College. Kelly attended graduate school for teaching at Framingham State College. Kelly has been an Accounting Adjunct faculty at Middlesex Community College since 2002 and a Business/Accounting Lab tutor since 2004.

Bill Zannini has an Associate degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's in Information systems from UMass Lowell. He has an MBA from New Hampshire College. He has been an adjunct faculty member in the Business department and has taught a wide variety of Business courses, including having a strong hand in developing and running the new Local Business Owners course.

Science Faculty:

Ruth Young has a PhD in Zoology, cum laude from University of Vermont. Ruth has been an adjunct faculty for Anatomy and Physiology, Introductory Biology, Human Nutrition and Health here at NECC since 2001 and Zoology Adjunct faculty at North Shore Community College.

Tom Gorczyca has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from Salem State College and a Masters in Biology from UMass-Lowell. Tom has been an Adjunct Biology Professor here at NECC since 1981.

Mark Reinhold has a Master of Science degree in Geology from University of North Carolina - Wilmington, and a BS in Geology from Keene State College. Mark has been Geology Instructor for the Department of Geology and Environmental Science at James Madison University since 2001.

Ken Thomas has a PhD in Biological Sciences from University of Rhode Island, a Masters in Zoological Sciences from URI, a BS in Biological Sciences from UMass-Lowell, and AA in Liberal Arts from NECC. Since 2002, Ken has been Instructor at the University of Texas at Austin.

Computer Technology and Engineering:

Wayne Kibbe has a Master's of Business Administration from University of Phoenix, a BS in Engineering from Arizona State University and a AS in Electronics Technology from Springfield Technical Community College. Wayne has been a part-time instructor of computers, networks, and business here at NECC since 2002.

Paul Chanley has a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University and a Masters in Electrical Engineering from Lowell University. He has worked as manager for Raytheon. He moves from part-time to full-time.

DIVISION OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Meredith Gunning received her undergraduate degree from the

University of Toronto and is completing her Ph.D. in Philosophy from Fordham University. She has taught for 10 years at Stonehill College and has been an adjunct faculty member at UMass Boston.

Carolyn Cohen received her undergraduate degree from UMass Boston and her Ph.D. in Psychopharmacology from the University of Minnesota. She comes to us from Mass. Bay Community College where she taught for the last 10 years.

Diane Edstrom has a B.F.A. from Mass. College of Art and a Master's in Teaching Arts in painting and drawing from UMass Amherst. Before coming to Northern Essex she taught at Whittier Voc Tech. Diana is a practicing artist who exhibits her work regularly.

DIVISION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Julie Ward is the Director of Medical Support Specialty Programs, which are the various certificates we offer in the evening within the Division of Health Professions. Julie holds a BS in Health Education from the University of Massachusetts, and a Master of Public Health degree from Boston University. She comes to NECC from BU, where she has been doing research in public health issues.

Nancy Garcia is the Department Chair and Program Coordinator for Radiologic Technology. Nancy holds an AS degree in Radiologic Science from Middlesex Community College, a BS in Human Services from Lesley College, and will complete her Masters in Education from Fitchburg State College next year. She comes to NECC from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, where she was most recently the Program Director of the Radiography program.

Dorothy Vannah joins us as an Associate Professor in Dental Assisting. She comes to NECC from Middlesex Community College, where she was an Associate Professor in the Dental Assistant and Dental Hygiene programs. She holds an AS degree in Dental Hygiene from Middlesex, a BS in Health Science from Northeastern University, and a Masters in Education from UMass Lowell.

Eva Beliveau joins NECC as an Instructor in the Nursing Program. Eva has been a part-time instructor in the Associate Degree in nursing program since 2002. Her nursing education includes a Diploma from the Salem Hospital School of Nursing, and a BSN and MSN from Salem State College. She comes to NECC from Anna Jacques Hospital, where she is currently a Nurse Educator.

Patricia Demers joins NECC as Associate Professor in Nursing. She comes to NECC from the Nursing Program at UMass Boston. Her nursing education includes a BSN from Saint Anselm College, an MS and Master in Public Health from Boston University, and she is currently enrolled in the doctoral program in education at Capella University.

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL AND STUDENT SUPPORT

James Sullivan - Full Time Faculty Position - Developmental Math. M.S. in Mathematics from Boston College (May, 1981). B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from Boston College (May, 1979) Professor of Mathematics at Mass. Bay Community College from 1983-Present.

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

US airstrikes kill 17, Iraqis gather to denounce US

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) A U.S. airstrike targeting an alleged militant safehouse in the western city of Fallujah killed some 17 people last week including three children, according to doctors and witnesses, and angry crowds gathered to mourn the victims and denounce the United States.

Elsewhere, the bodies of two slain Turkish citizens and an unidentified man were discovered in northern Iraq, a police official said Thursday, while Al-Jazeera broadcast part of a video by a militant group purportedly showing the killing of three Turkish hostages.

Human rights groups are on the rise in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) Syrian intellectuals and human rights activists have founded Syria's third human rights association, a statement by the new group said Wednesday.

The group's aim is to "spread and deepen the culture of human rights" in Syrian society, it said.

"The respect of human rights is a supreme interest for every individual, group and people. Hence, we declare the establishment of the Syrian Human Rights Organization as an independent civilian organization concerned with human rights in Syria," it said.

Since he took office in July 2000, Syrian President Bashar Assad has introduced laws and measures aimed at relaxing government grip on civil society activities and the state-run economy. But he has also clamped down on pro-democracy and pro-reform activists, detaining and jailing several of them.

Chinese language uses brain differently than alphabet-based languages

(AP) Westerners shudder at the idea of reading even the most basic street signs and instructions in Chinese, a language with 6,000 characters to memorize to be considered fluent. A new set of brain images shows why: Reading English-style alphabets and Chinese characters use very different parts of the brain.

The results also suggest that Chinese schoolchildren with reading problems misfire in a different brain region than the one used in reading alphabet-based languages like English. This demonstrates that the learning disorder dyslexia is not the same in every culture and does not have a universal biological cause, researchers said.

Neurologists described the results as "very important and innovative." While dyslexia has certain common roots, they said they now have some proof that this kind of functional problem plays out differently according to the demands of the language.

Sport & Fitness Center Open House

Come check out the NECC Sport & Fitness Center on the Haverhill campus and the departments located within.

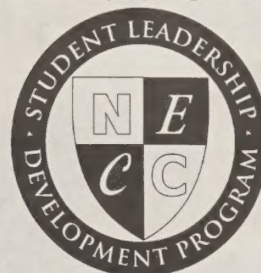
Please join us Wednesday,
September 15th from 11am—1pm.

- Complimentary refreshments provided
- Tours of the facility
- A chance to meet with students and staff

This event is sponsored by the NECC College Life & Healthy Living Unit, Division of Enrollment Management & Student Services. To request a sign language interpreter, please contact 978/556-3897 V/TTY.



- *2001 Outstanding Program Award
- *2001 Exemplary Program Award
- *2002 Exemplary Program Award



Northern Essex Community College
Student Leadership Development Program

Nominations now being accepted!

Program begins in October

*Participate in a series of lectures and seminars!
Gain valuable leadership skills that can help you in school and at work!
Become eligible to serve as a Presidential Student Ambassador!*

Sponsored by College Life & Healthy Living and the Career Development Center.

For more information or to get involved, please contact
Student Activities & Orientation Department at 978/556-3731.

NECC Student Trustee Elections

September 20 - 11—1:30PM - H (at College Fair)

September 21 - 11—1PM & 5—7PM (both H & L)

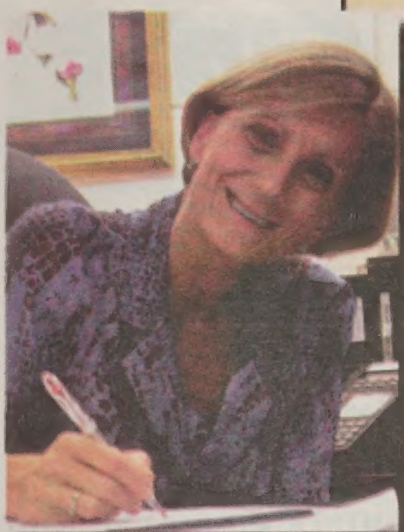
September 22 - 11—1PM - L (at College Fair)



**If you are interested in running for the NECC Student Representative to the
Board of Trustees position, please contact
Student Activities & Orientation Department.**

Nomination petitions are **due** no later than noon on **Friday, September 17th.**
For details, please call 978/556-3732.

Nita Lamborghini



Assistant Dean of
College Life & Healthy Living

Welcome Back



Dina Broton

Coordinator of Student Activities & Orientation

Sue MacAvoy



Coordinator of Athletics,
Recreation & Intramurals

...from The College Life Team



Donna Montalbano

Coordinator of Student Health Services

Rob Parker



Coordinator of the Wellness & Fitness Center
and Sport & Leisure Studies

HAVE A GREAT FALL SEMESTER!

Arts & Entertainment

Two new ways for the NECC students to practice talents

A new dance floor and plans for a new theater

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

NECC is finally giving its students new ways to showcase their talents. A new dance floor has recently been installed in the Health and Fitness center and a preliminary draft has been drawn up to turn lec-

ture hall A into the new theater. The theater is to be named after Chet Hawryliw, the late Dean of Humanities at NECC.

"The key word is preliminary," said Jim Murphy, a theater professor at NECC.

The new and improved theater isn't going to be started until after the new technology center is finished. They guess it should be done sometime in 2006, but no actual timetables have been made. All that is for sure is that it will happen.

Lecture hall A will be completely renovated. The new theater will have more seating than the Top

Notch Theater. It will seat 150 where the Top Notch only seats 75. Also the stage will be bigger and deeper. A new lighting and sound system will also be installed. One of the best new features is that an air conditioner will be put in.

"I also hope for better handicap access," said Susan Sanders of the English and Performing Arts Department.

At this time money still needs to be raised. The project is in the fundraising stages. The dance club has already had fundraisers to benefit the theater, and they plan on having a dance-a-thon this semester to

raise even more money.

When the new theater is completed it will be used for more than just stage performances. There will most likely be used for dance, musical concerts, and maybe even others competing for the space.

"It will be exciting once it happens. We are looking forward to it. We could use the space for all kinds of performances," Jim Murphy said.

Besides helping raise money for the new theater, the dance club was petitioning to get a new dance floor installed.

"It's been a long time coming," said Dance Club Advisor Elaine

Mawhinney. "Students were getting injured on the old floor. The boards weren't even. Finally having the new floor will make all the difference."

The new dance floor is springy so that dancers can now do jumps without fear of injuries. Jumping on the wooden floor was too hard and dangerous on the dancers.

In a time when many schools are cutting back on arts and music it's good to see that NECC is providing a place for its students to use their talents.

Auditions, plays, and acting scholarships, oh my! A preview of the upcoming NECC theater season

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If all the world is a stage and the men and women are all merely players then the theater department, along with the Fringe and Top Notch players has something planned for everyone's entertainment.

First off the Fringe players, the trio of Mark Morrison, Paul Melendy, and Matt Carr return for another season, and present "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare, Abridged." The Fringe players are all alumni of Top Notch. The show will take place on the weekend of Sept 16-18.

"It went over extremely well last year so we decided to open with it again. It is very funny. This will introduce the kind of quality theater we do here. Last years cast and crew was great, and we toured several schools." Theater professor Jim Murphy said.

The Top Notch players will present Willy Russell's long running musical, "Blood Brothers," as this falls main stage production. It will take place on Nov 12-21, and auditions are on Sunday Sept. 12 at 7p.m., and Monday Sept. 13 at 630 p.m. They will be held in the Top

Notch theater. Anyone who takes a course here at NECC is welcome to audition. There is no experience necessary.

"The hardest part of theater is the auditions," Sue Sanders of the English and performing arts department said.

"There is some anxiety but we try to make it as comfortable as possible," Jim Murphy said.

They are also looking for a crew to do costumes, makeup, sets, painting, and more. There are lots of ways to be part of the production.

"Top Notch theater gives students new to the school the opportunity to become involved and have a place in college. It's a wonderful way to get involved and meet new people." Jim

Murphy said.

"There is this preconception that theater groups are a cliché, but when you work with the same people all week, you are bound to hang out together. We make everyone welcome," Sue Sanders mentioned.



Sue Sanders photo

NECC students Laura Hidish and Mike Shine in a production of "Rumors."

None of the productions are pre-cast and every year most of the casts are brand new. They may have part of the theater group but it might be the first time they are cast in a principal role.

For students who come to audition it is asked that you bring 16 bars of prepared music, or something familiar will be provided.

"Everyone will be ideally singing. A lot of people that sing in the car or the shower are sometimes our best singers," Jim Murphy said, and Sue Sanders agreed. She mentioned a few different people who had never sang in public before, but tried out and made it singing in one of the shows.

"The worse thing you can do is make a fool of yourself, and everyone needs to do that once in awhile," Jim Murphy joked.

Then towards the end of the semester the performing arts department presents the 5th annual production of "A Christmas Carol," on Dec 10-12. This show is completely open casting. That means almost anyone can try out. This included not only current students, but faculty and alumni as well. Auditions will be on Nov 15.

Along with Top Notch students getting to showcase their acting talents, they also get a chance at the Irene Ryan acting scholarship. The late Ryan funded this scholarship, and was best known as the feisty Grannie, from the television show,

"The Beverly Hillbillies," but was also a Broadway star. The Top Notch productions will be critiqued by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. A theater faculty member from another institution will come and see NECC shows and comment on what they see. Then two students from each production will be chosen to compete for the Irene Ryan scholarship. Nominated students will compete in January with other students from across New England.

Top Notch already has plans for next semester. They will present a stage reading of the play, "The Exonerated." This play examines the death penalty. It is based on actual testimony from people wrongly convicted and sentenced to death. It is scheduled to take place on Feb 17-19.

Also Top Notch will present, "Arms and a Man," by George Bernard Shaw. This is a humorous look at war and the military. This play will take place in April, exact dates to follow.

And finally next May there will be a weekend of student directed one act plays.

The theater department has something for everyone this year. As Jim Murphy said, "There is a fair amount to watch."

A pop culture addiction

Introducing the newest editor of the A&E section of the Observer



BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Hello, I'm Kelly, and I'm a pop culture addict. Anything to do with music, movies, television, or the arts and entertainment industry in general is my thing.

Anyway, that's why I have taken over the arts and entertainment section of the Observer.

This is my second semester

working on the paper. Last semester I worked in the Opinions section, but my move into the A&E section is definitely a better fit. I plan to do a lot with this section. I want to add some new features like profiling some of the talent here at NECC, and try to do more with the events on campus.

I want to cover all the plays, shows, and other events that take place. Maybe I'll even get behind the scenes and catch some rehearsals. It should be a good semester. Welcome to students new and old, and stay tuned.

Break into dance at dance club auditions

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The dance club will be holding auditions on Monday Sept. 13 from 12-1 p.m. in the dance studio. This meeting is for all levels. Everyone is welcome, and it doesn't even matter what your major is. If you love to dance, then come and try out!

"It doesn't matter what experience level you are, we will adjust the choreography," Elaine Mawhinney, advisor of the dance club said.

The instructor, Karrie Stang, is a graduate of NECC. She was a dance

major who now owns a studio, but took time out to come back and teach here at NECC.

Also on Wednesdays there will be an advanced dance class, from 12-1.

"This is for the more experienced student who is looking for a challenge," Mawhinney said.

At the end of the fall semester on December 3 and 4 there will be student dance show. It will mostly be from students in the dance composition class.

The dance club is yet another way NECC lets its students express themselves. Come and try out or support them by seeing them in action..

Arts & Entertainment



Kelly's World of Pop Culture

Take a dive into the Open Water

'Open Water' drags you in and leaves you stranded

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

"Open Water" is the story of a couple who go on a scuba diving trip and get accidentally left behind to fend for themselves in the deep and dangerous ocean. The movie was inspired by the true story of Tom and Eileen Lonergan, who were suspected dead after being accidentally left behind by their diving boat in Australia's Great Barrier Reef. The movie stars New England native Blanchard Ryan. Ryan was born and raised in New England and graduated from the University of New Hampshire. She has been in a few commercials, independent films, and even had a part on "Sex and the City", but this is her first starring role.

As the movie opens immediately you know this isn't a big budget movie. The camera work isn't the usual high definition, crystal clear digital that most movies are today. This works however, although you might need to pop a Dramamine by the end. Think Blair Witch in the ocean. The shaky camera work and motion of the ocean might turn a few stomachs.

The movie uses this almost fly on the wall technique that makes the audience feel like they're spying on this couple. It takes awhile for the movie to actually jump into the water. First we must sit through this couple's vacation, as they shop, eat and sit on the beach. The whole time it's like watching someone's home movies. There are some small clues in all the random vacation scenes though. It becomes pretty obvious that the couple is having problems. They both work too much and rarely have

time together. This last minute vacation was supposed to be like their reconciliation. They want to spend time together. They make plans to go on a scuba diving trip, but they plan on separating themselves from their diving group. They want to be

causes the couple to be stranded. Since they kept to themselves they were overlooked, and no one remembered they were missing. But their stuff is still on the boat. The one clue that the movie-goer hopes will ultimately lead to their rescue.

Of course at first the stranded divers don't worry. They bob up and down and get carried by the current as they try to wave at nearby ships. The day drags on and the sun beats down. Hunger, nausea, dehydration, and isolation soon make the couple fear

small knife to protect them. It sways on and on as sharks continue to haunt them. A virtually invisible jellyfish stings them, and even a little feeder fish that bites take turns trying to sink the helpless couple. At one point there are even buzzards flying overhead waiting.

"Open Water" is advertised as scarier than "Jaws", but it's not the same kind of scary. Where "Jaws" went for the blood, gore and a robotic shark, "Open Water" uses real sharks and causes the audience to sit through it's own fears. Whether its fear of drowning, sharks, darkness, or just the ocean in general it delivers. The anxiety rises like the tides. The scares comes at the right moments and you to sit on the edge of your seat waiting for something to happen. The problem is that not much does. It plays with not only your fears, but also your head, but in the end it leaves you disappointed. The camera work and even the actors all do well, it's just the story that leaves something to be desired.



movies.yahoo.com photo

able to do their own thing within the group, and this becomes their downfall.

Finally they get out into the ocean, and a miscount of passengers

for their lives. Almost as if asking, "What else could go wrong?", splashes and fins appear around them. They soon realized they are in shark-infested waters with only their diving suits and a

The Los Angeles night scenes shine brighter than its famous stars in the thriller 'Collateral'

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

A man died on a train in L.A. Passengers got on and off the train, and for six hours no one noticed that the man was dead. Think about that? Are we all too busy to notice other people. Are we all just insignificant? This is pretty much what Vincent, a hired killer, tells Max the cab driver he's pretty much holding hostage, after he killed his first victim of the night.

Collateral starts out like any other night for cab driver Max, played by the Jamie Foxx. He makes his way to the airport flirting with a stressed out, but attractive attorney he has as a passenger, played by Jada Pinkett Smith. After dropping her off and getting her number he picks up Vincent, an older and obvious looking, well dressed hit man played by Tom Cruise. Cruise does pretty well playing the bad guy, although he's sporting hurricane proof salt and

pepper hair and 5 o'clock shadow stubble. Vincent makes Max a proposition, \$600 if Max will take him to five stops and back to the airport by the morning. Little does Max know that the five stops will all be hits. Max takes the job although reluctant.

After Vincent kills his first victim, who's body falls out the window and lands on the cab, Max is ready to get out of the situation. "You killed him," gasps the cabbie, "No I shot him. The bullets and the fall killed him," says the hit man. The cabbie, Max quickly learns that he isn't going anywhere. Instead, he is now a hostage with a body in his trunk and must continue to drive for the hit man.

They continue with their own ill fated mission. They get stopped by the cops because of the broken windshield and traces of blood, but luckily an emergency call forces the officers to leave before they check the trunk.

Meanwhile other cops are checking out the murder scene. With no

body, and few clues it's hard to find the killer. The only thing they know is that a cab was waiting in the alley. With thousands and thousands of cabs in L.A., it isn't much of a clue.

Max and Vincent continue their mission. The cat and mouse game is on as the cops seem to be getting closer. Suddenly we find ourselves in a L.A. night club. As the music pounds all around, the cops bust in and the shooting starts. Club goers scream and hit the floor as Vincent makes his way out of the club safely. Max is saved briefly but it couldn't end there and he ends up back as the hit man's hostage.

By the end things start to make more sense. The climax ending on an L.A. subway train takes a little too long, but everything seems to go full circle we'll say. The cat and mouse game is reminiscent of a horror movie. Max and his companion, I'll keep that a secret, run through the station as Vincent follows in that slow horror movie monster way. Every time they think they are safe

Vincent pops up until the final showdown.

The movie takes you on a fast paced ride through the city of L.A.



movies.yahoo.com photo

The witty and sometimes funny dialogue, and amazing shots of L.A. after dark are almost worth admission, but some of the scenes are a little too unrealistic. For example, in an

alley adjacent to a busy street, we see a lot of people walking by, and something causes the hit man to fire a few rounds into a couple of guys. But no one hears this as they walk by. I know L.A. I've been there late at night walking around the streets of Hollywood. If there were gun shots I think someone would hear them. But I guess it's the point the movie is trying to get across.

People die everyday. People that you don't know. They are murdered by suave hit man, or killed in disasters, but are we all too wrapped up in our own lives to even notice?

Come take the first path toward your big break!

Everyone wants to make it big, here's a chance for NECC students to start

BY KELLY FITZGERALD
Arts & Entertainment Editor

I think most people, even if they don't admit it, want their chance at fame and fortune. I know I do. But

where do we start?

For me this newspaper is my start on the right path. Someday maybe I will live in Hollywood working as some kind of writer in the entertainment business, or maybe I'll sell a book and make it to the New York Times best seller list.

We all dream big, and we all deserve a shot. So my question to the students out there is, are you full of talent and wish more people knew?

Or, is one of your friends insanely talented and you want the world to know it? Whether you are a musician, an actor, an artist, a dancer, a writer or anything else I'm forgetting let me know.

I want to profile students at NECC, and get them the recognition they rightfully deserve.

Everyone needs to start somewhere, and the wide range of readers of the NECC Observer is the place.

So nominate yourself or a friend

“
Is one of your friends insanely talented and you want the world to know it?

and let everyone see the talent out there. Send emails to observer@necc.mass.edu. Put the subject, "The first path to my big break."

Include your name, email address, and why you should be profiled in the upcoming issue of the Observer. Chosen talents will be interviewed and photographed, and then their profile will be in an issue of the Observer.

Arts & Entertainment

America's favorite past time could quickly become poker, as the game's popularity grows

(KRT) For generations, the poker room has been portrayed as a smoke-filled parlor where whiskey-drinking, tobacco-chewing gamblers would rather shoot you than let you take the pot with a pair of fives. But recently, the Internet and a guy aptly named Chris Moneymaker brought new life to one of the oldest card games around.

Moneymaker, an accountant from Tennessee, qualified for the May 2003 World Series of Poker in Las Vegas after honing his poker skills on the Internet. With only three years' experience in the game, he bested a lineup of professional players in the Las Vegas tournament, walking away with the \$2.5 million jackpot. His win, along with the popularity of the "World Poker Tour" TV show, have sparked a boom for online poker rooms.

Call it poker for the 21st century and it's more than just a game. It's a big business. More than a dozen poker Web sites drawing tens of thousands of players per hour some playing for real money and others just for fun have sprouted up in recent years. And because Internet gambling remains in a legal gray area in the United States, most of the sites are based in other countries. Yet the online boom has started to affect offline poker. On the Las Vegas Strip, where poker tables were shut down a few years ago for lack of business, some casinos have re-opened poker rooms, giving partial credit to the Internet for introducing new players to the game. The Internet also has tweaked the strategies for playing the game, replacing the art of reading an opponent's body language and facial expressions with pure analysis and statistics. "Technology has complete-

ly changed the face of the game," said Vikrant Bhargava, general manager of PartyPoker.com, the world's leading online poker Web site, based in India.

Within a year of Moneymaker's win in Las Vegas, the average number of tournament contestants playing poker for real money online jumped from about 1,500 per hour to more than 14,000, according to PokerPulse.com, a Vancouver company that tracks people and money at 19 leading sites around the world. The average number of paying players in non-tournament games jumped from 2,500 to more than 11,000. That has created a dot-com phenomenon generating an estimated \$3.2 million per day for 19 leading sites, according to PokerPulse.com. It tallies up to an annualized take of \$1.2 billion a year for the industry. A table for Texas Hold 'Em, one of the most popular poker games, has an average pot of about \$60 per hand and will see about 65 hands in any given hour, estimates PokerPulse.com. The site operator would take \$3 out of every hand or about \$195 per hour. Multiply that by the number of tables in the online room and it's easy to see how the industry is pulling in about \$3.2 million per day. "Imagine a stadium full of people playing poker," Bhargava said. "If we put all of those people at real tables, we'd need 15 or 20 stadiums."

Technology has made it possible for so many people to play in one virtual room. Even the free tables play an important role in the sites' success because they allow players to test their skills without risking cash. For the past five years, Rich MacKanin, 24, of San Jose, Calif., has been playing in a weekly garage poker game.

Last year, after hearing about Internet poker rooms and Moneymaker's win, he started spending more time at PartyPoker.com's free tables. Eventually, he coughed up \$50 for some real-money action. After three hands of play, his \$50 was gone. Playing the online, real-money game

to figure out opponent's habits by tracking how long it takes for them to fold, bet or raise. In an Internet poker game, "you can go back at every hand and look at the hand history to see what everyone had," said Roy Cooke, cardroom manager at PlanetPoker.com.



krtcampus.com photo

was a different experience for MacKanin, who over the years had become the type of player who often plays his hands based on opponents' body language, such as smirks or raised eyebrows. "Half the game itself is staring down the person across the table from you, but how can you stare down a computer? You can't bluff over a computer screen," he said. Now, he pays more attention to cards in his own hand and those played on the table. Playing online has taught him how to calculate the odds of drawing cards that will build a winning hand and showed him how

"That's the ability to learn from your mistakes. You can review everything." There are even software programs such as Poker Tracker that let you analyze and track your hands. That's something you can't do in Las Vegas.

Still, poker tables are making a comeback in Sin City, and some casinos have re-opened the poker tables they had shut down. "People keep asking for them," said Gary Thompson, spokesman for Harrah's Entertainment, which owns Harrah's Casino and Hotel and Rio, both in Las Vegas. "You don't really make a

lot of money off of a poker room, but the customers want to play and we want to keep them happy." The boom in online poker comes despite its murky legal status in the United States. Some legal experts say federal law gives the U.S. government power to prosecute some forms of online gambling, but state anti-gambling laws vary leaving online poker trapped in a legal gray area. What's more, most online poker sites are licensed and regulated outside the United States, many in Canada. "Even the United States federal government can't do much about it if the operators are sitting in foreign countries," said I. Nelson Rose, a professor of law at Whittier College in southern California and author of an Internet column dubbed "Gambling and the Law." And in reality, state and federal authorities are more likely to prosecute gambling operators than players, said Rose.

Despite the legal murkiness, online poker rooms are operating like real businesses. An online site has the advantage of not having to buy real tables and chips or pay for a dealer like a casino or cardroom would but there are other costs involved. The company's finances undergo audits, as do the software products and online security measures for its financial transactions. "We don't have the overhead of pit bosses and dealers but we have a fair amount of personnel, people answering questions, watching the tables," Bhargava said. "We have people that are watching tables and software that's watching tables."

**Do you need stamps?
What about a bus pass?
Is there a place on campus to store my books?
Where can I get a college ID card?
What opportunities are available at the college?**

The answer to all these questions and more are found at the NECC Student Activities and Orientation Department.

You'll find balloons, bus passes, stamps, discount movie tickets and more, all at low prices, you may even get a free meal, just for stopping by!

Student Activities & Orientation

Open Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm,
evenings by appointment

Haverhill Campus – Sport & Fitness Center, D117
Lawrence Campus – Dimitry Building Room 133

Tel: 978 556 3731

Or check us at on the web at:

http://www.necc.mass.edu/student/student_activities.shtml



College Life & Healthy Living Northern Essex Community College

See yourself on
the cover of a
magazine with
Almost Famous
Magazine
Covers!

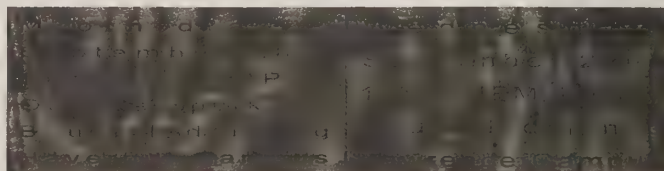
Learn about
college
departments
& services!



Get
involved in
college life!

Free Raffle!

COLLEGE LIFE & CAMPUS SERVICES F A I R

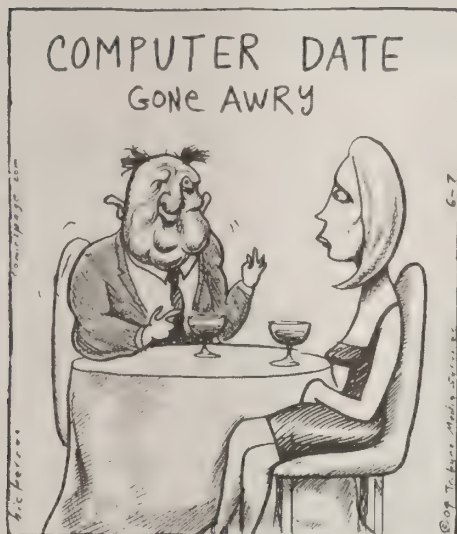


For more information, please contact Student Activities & Orientation at 978/556-3731.
Sponsored by the College Life & Healthy Living Unit, a Division of Enrollment Management & Student Services.
To request a sign language interpreter, please call 978/556-3897 V/TTY.

Arts & Entertainment

The Quigmans By Buddy Hickerson

KRT



"It's true, that wasn't my real photo AND I said I was involved in science What I DIDN'T say was 'as an experiment.'"



"I hate to use the words 'you're fired,' so just get up and move to the other side of the desk."



Upon picking up Francine for their date, Bob couldn't help notice she was dressed to kill

LIFE IN HELL

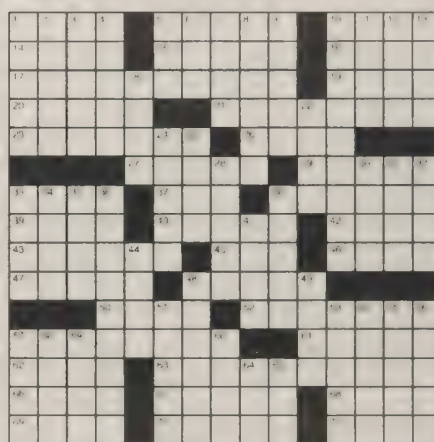


©2004 BY MATT GROENING

Crossword

- ACROSS
- Roe source
 - On the qui vive
 - Trail mix
 - Model T, e.g.
 - Jessica Parker
 - Iranian cash
 - Little Bighorn victor
 - Not tricked by
 - "M*A*S*H" locale
 - Capital creator
 - Swindled
 - Agatha's contemporary
 - "Endymion" poet
 - Employment
 - Took a horse
 - de Janeiro
 - Son-of movie
 - Highest point
 - Writer Asimov
 - Internet addresses, for short
 - Roof of the mouth
 - Sp lady
 - Make less difficult
 - Slug trail
 - Has the lead
 - "Othello" villain
 - Darling
 - Warning lights
 - Sports facility
 - Singer or Loughlin
 - Vivian Vance's on-time role
 - King of comedy
 - Plains tribe
 - Shrek for one
 - Gun sound
 - Stitched
 - Kernel

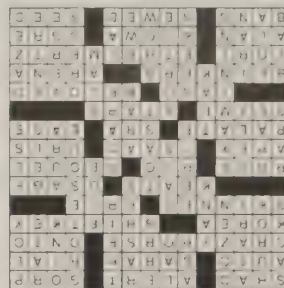
- DOWN
- Grocery containers
 - Impresario Sol
 - Video-game company
 - Egg count
 - Bat wood
 - Thai Buddhist
 - Makes a faux pas
 - Skin eruptions
 - "A League of Own"
 - Outlandish
 - Sty cry
 - Appraise
 - Stratagem
 - Abrupt pull
 - Ventilation duct
 - Spooky
 - Platform
 - Drink to
 - Invisible emanation
 - Salon substances
 - Different
 - Seance sounds
 - October's stone
 - Prepared-food shoo
 - Testing
 - False a arm
 - UAE part
 - Shipbuilder's wood
 - Aerial combat mission



© 2004 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All rights reserved.

09/04/04

Solutions



- Close hard
- Nerdy types
- Stackable snacks
- Brink
- nous (just between us)
- Stunned
- Babble
- "Damn Yankees" vamp
- Land of Isfahan
- Third at the track
- Lamb's mama
- Young boy

No new outfits for NECC students

Students saving money by not shopping this fall

By MAKEEBA FRASER
Style Editor

Back to school is a time for buying books, supplies and clothes, but students a NECC aren't going on a shopping spree for clothing unless they really have to.

Nancy Whilton, a mom of both college and high school students said that as a purchaser of back to school items she feels college students are less pressured into buying new fashions.

"I believe that college students are more confident in their own sense of style than the style that everyone else is wearing," she said.

Whilton also mentioned that she believes there is more tolerance for different styles in college than in high school, and, because the population consists of adults and students are more mature, there is obviously less pressure to wear what society says is "in."

Whilton's son, Graham Hill-Whilton, who is starting his first semester here at NECC, said he agreed with his mom when she said there is less pressure in college to wear what everyone else thinks is cool since every one has their own idea of cool styles. Hill-Whilton also mentioned he feels that in high school there is more pressure on girls than guys to have their style updated.

"In high school I think there is more pressure on girls to show skin because they are always competing

with each other... because they are always trying to impress other people."

Whilton told the Observer that her son went from a wearing Mohawk sporting colors such as blue, red and green in high school to a now more everyday look. Whilton even said that a secretary at his high school prom said he looked liked he was going as the NBC Peacock because of all the colors in his hair.

Chris Crocker, also a first-time student at the college, says that to him it doesn't really matter what he wears to school as long as it's comfortable and matches. He admits to feeling less pressured about his sense of style, and said he only really went back-to-school shopping for clothes in elementary school because everyone else was doing it.

"I really don't have any particular clothes I wear just to school, I basically wear the same things I wear other places," Crocker said. "I just try to keep my style original and hope it looks OK."

Another first-time NECC student, Tiffany Lachance, says her style image only really mattered when she was a junior in high school but now the only thing that matters is that she feels good in what she wears and is comfortable in it.

"You really won't see me dress up to go to school unless I just came from someplace. A T-shirt and some jeans will do just fine."

Although Hill-Whilton and Lachance do admit to doing some clothes shopping before school starts they say it's just because they need some new clothes for their wardrobe, and they will just be looking for something that suits them and not everyone else.



Graham Hill-Whilton posing with mom, Nancy Whilton.

Makeeba Fraser photo



Sokhary Sok photo

Chris Crocker

“
You really won't see me dress up to go to school.”

- Lachance

I basically wear the same things I wear other places.

- Crocker



Sokhary Sok photo

Tiffany Lachance

Out with the new, in with the old?

By MAKEEBA FRASER
Style Editor

Our parents were right: Fads and fashions do come back around. Today so many of our clothing styles have come from styles of the past. Bellbottoms, knee-high boots, hip huggers and platform shoes were all once things from the past but now are back in our closets. So how much do our styles today reflect styles of yesteryear? Take a look at this blast from the past.

In the sixties mini skirts ruled the world; every woman owned at least one. In fact, the trend was so big that it followed through into the seventies and eighties, only to take a break in the nineties so it could be well rested to make a huge comeback again this year.

Another trend making its rounds once again are ponchos, and for all of you who didn't know, ponchos were first popular in the seventies and the patterns were based on American Indian styles with color-



KRT photo

ful or alternating colored stripes, just like they are today.

Now if you were to watch TV Land or Nick at Night you would know how big Converse High Tops were. Those were the type of shoes every kid had. From the nerds to the jocks, this was the shoe of the eighties and the dirtier they were the bet-

ter. Now, kids are buying them and intentionally scribbling on them to have that dirty worn effect to avoid waiting until they have actually become worn out.

Although this next style is not as popular as some of the other ones from the past, you can catch most celebrities and a few non-celebrities sporting it. Wearing lingerie as outerwear has been spotted on celebrities from Hallie Berry to Lindsay Lohan. But these Hollywood stars aren't the ones who started this trend. In fact, this fashion statement started in the 80's thanks to Madonna and her outrageous bustier.

Other clothing styles such as long sleeve shirts under T-shirts, bleached jeans, halter tops shirts with different colored collars and sleeves and tank tops also came from different times in recent history. So when you feel like throwing out something that you feel is outdated, think twice because most likely it's going to make an appearance once again.

Meet the new style editor



Summer is nearing its end and the fall season is just around the corner, bringing with it new weather, new fashions and a new face.

Hi, I'm Makeeba Fraser, the new style editor for the NECC Observer, and I would like to welcome all new and returning students to another semester here at the college.

This semester will be my third at Northern Essex. I started studying here right after finishing high school on the beautiful island of Antigua, where I lived for seven years. Originally, I was born in

Lawrence and grew up in North Andover, until the age of 10, when I moved to my mother's native island in the Caribbean. After completing the rest of my elementary and secondary education I decided it was time to move back home. Now here I am enjoying every moment I spend at the college, writing for the paper, meeting new people, and taking in the whole college experience.

If you haven't guessed it, I'm a journalism major, and I'm truly excited about being on the Observer staff this semester. Hopefully I'll be able to meet many of you exciting students while doing interviews.

If you have any style news or fashion tips you would like to share, or would like to be selected for our fashion pick of the week, feel free to drop your submission off at the newsroom located in the Spurk building, room number C222A&B or email me at: observer@nec.mass.edu.

Again, welcome to Northern Essex, and I'm looking forward to writing for all our readers.

Style

Fashion pick of the week

By MAKEEBA FRASER
Style Editor

It may be hot out, but Jimmy Man knows how to keep his sense of style cool.

Sporting an all baggy look, Man says it keeps him looking macho since it hides his skinny frame. However, his skinny frame is not the only thing keeping him in style. His look is also based on the type of music he listens to and his personality.

In addition to making him look more muscular, Man's baggy clothing reflects his love of rap music, seeing that many rap stars tend to wear baggy clothes. Being born in Brooklyn, N.Y. seems to also have an influence on the way Man dresses.

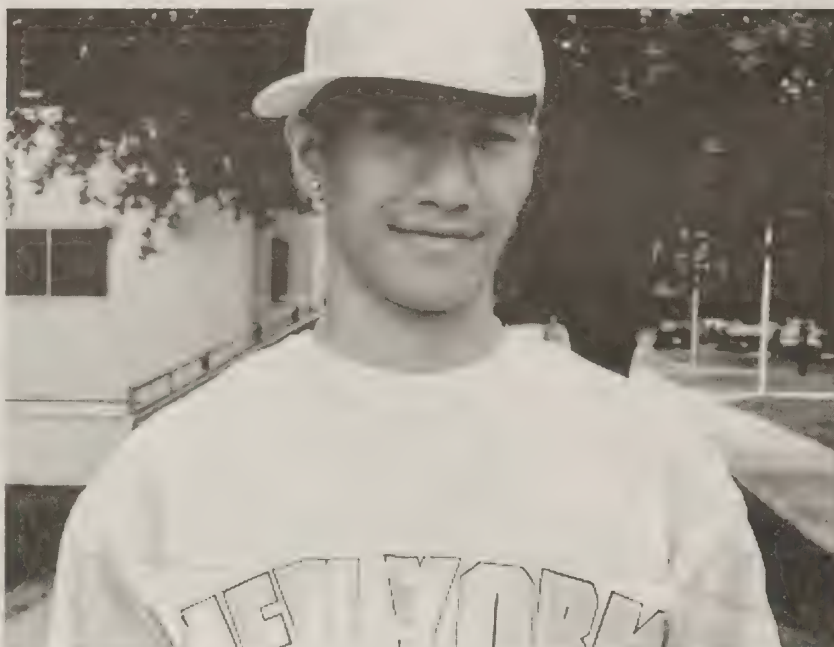
"I like to represent my New York heritage by wearing New York logos on my clothing," he explained. "Almost all the clothes I own has a New York Logo on it."

When asked about his Yankees hat, Man honestly said his hat has nothing to do with supporting the baseball team, he just likes it because of the logo and it matches his clothing.

That's right, this styling student not only has the look but also has coordination to go along with it.

"I like my clothes to match and try my best to keep the colors flowing," he said.

Along with his clothing, Man



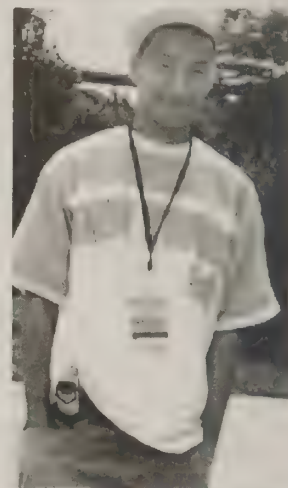
Makeeba Fraser photo

“

I like to represent my New York heritage by wearing New York logos on my clothing ...

sports a gold chain with a gold Buddha pendant surrounded by diamonds. He says he wears this in recognition of his god and his culture.

The most important thing Man says about his sense of style is that he is comfortable in what he is wearing, and he feels good when wearing it, and knowing that he is reflecting himself through his clothing is bound to make anyone feel good.



Solhary Sok Photo

Jimmy Man shows off his threads for the camera.

"KRT"

Sept. 6-12, 2004

Aries (March 21-April 20) Late Monday, loved ones may present ideas for home improvement or relocation. Long-term housing agreements will work to your advantage during the next five weeks, but ask for final details and make meaningful decisions. After Thursday, security and financial resources are also on the rise. Pay special attention to written promises made about two months ago; renewed contracts and payment increases are accented. Late Sunday romance is delightful: offer sincere invitations.

Taurus (April 21-May 20) Romantic relationships will now begin a brief but intense phase of emotional negotiations. Areas strongly affected are family obligations, home planning and shared daily duties. Before midweek, single Taurans can expect a steady wave of intriguing but poorly defined flirtations. Be patient in the coming weeks, as long-term intentions will become obvious. Late Saturday, a trusted friend may propose unique travel plans. Promises, however, are unreliable, so expect sudden reversals.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Listen closely to your own first impressions during the three days: before Thursday. Geminis born after 1972 will learn unusual social or business information — fast tracks to success, private romantic proposals and rare social alliances may be involved. Don't

hesitate to join controversial discussions; your observations are valid. Later this week, family relations may be temporarily strained by financial negotiations or revised home routines. Stay balanced, because tempers may be high.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Reputation is now a strong concern. Before midweek, pay special attention to new work place instructions or last minute demands from authority figures. Key officials will soon rely heavily on your group management skills. Remain dedicated to equality and fair play and colleagues will respond positively to your direction. After Saturday, social and romantic relationships need to be redefined. Ask loved ones for clear indications of their feelings; your expectations are valid.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Age-appropriate relationships or unexpected invitations may be compelling during the next few days. Some Leos will now experience a brief but intense social triangle. Avoid public commitment and minor romantic jealousies, if possible, as emotional reactions are now unpredictable. Thursday through Sunday, business decisions will not work to your advantage. Authority figures may cancel key projects or reassign duties. Don't hesitate to show enthusiasm

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Loved ones may soon provide a rare glimpse into their private values or long-term expectations. Areas of interest are group iden-

tity, emotional insecurities and repeated family patterns. Silently gather new insights. After Tuesday, subtle revelations may reveal future social or romantic plans. Thursday through Sunday also highlight career negotiations, new assignments and unusual workplace triangles. Co-workers will offer criticism: remain dedicated to short-term goals.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Long-term relationships may be disrupted this week by misinformation or bold social comments. After Tuesday, expect close friends to express strong opinions. Romantic promises and daily loyalties may be at issue. Over the next two weeks, group expectations and private obligations will be confusing. Avoid quick decisions, if possible, and wait for clarity. On Friday through Sunday, home relationships may also be affected. If so, examine outdated promises; past ideals will prove vital.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Financial decisions may require caution during the next nine days. After Monday, expect family members to introduce revised plans or new budgets. Security agreements will eventually work to your advantage. At present, however, serious discussions will provide only vague details. Go slow. Later this week, a close friend may wish to explore an unusual romantic relationship. Social triangles, distant travel or complex family dynamics may be involved. Wait for new information.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Early this week, quick mood swings and fast social revelations may require diplomacy. After Monday, a previously reluctant friend or lover will offer their participation, support or approval. Clearly outline all options before asking for new commitments — private doubts may still be keenly felt. Thursday through Sunday, work place advancement may be temporarily delayed. Corporate funding, loans or legal permissions will demand further negotiation. Don't avoid verbal disputes.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 20) Sensuality is now a strong influence in all key relationships. Early this week, potential lovers and long-term friends may actively seek physical affirmation. Love affairs, sudden proposals and social decisions are highlighted. After midweek, private attractions will no longer remain hidden: stay alert. Wednesday through Sunday, older relatives or close friends may be unusually silent or withdrawn. Don't confront: loved ones need extra time to resolve personal family issues.

Aquarius (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) Someone close may soon wish to become more actively involved in your personal life. Brief romantic encounters and short-term social commitments will work best. Remain quietly detached and avoid serious discussions or complex family triangles, if possible. After midweek, a long-term colleague or friend

ed friend may announce a controversial decision. Relocation, home expansion or fast romantic commitments may be accented. Try to remain cheerful, since passions are high.

Pisces (Feb. 20-March 20) Minor joint pain, back strain or muscle spasms may be bothersome during the next four days. Deeper issues of emotional security or family support are an underlying influence. Respond quickly to all emerging memories, as this is a powerful time for newfound wisdom. Later this week, loved ones may expect bold public statements and valid romantic promises. Stay open to uniquely creative home decisions: at present, a key relationship may need to evolve to a new level of trust.

If your birthday is this week: Key officials will postpone long-term projects, challenge ongoing assignments or revise job titles during the next few weeks. Career promises made five to six months ago will soon need to be renegotiated. If progress is not made by late October, seek new employment or set new goals: in the coming weeks, bosses and managers will slowly reveal their long-term agendas. December through mid-February also highlight dramatic romantic changes and newly explored passion. In early 2005, key relationships will expand. Watch for loved ones to push for added commitments, new family planning or bold public promises. Finalize all decisions by early March: powerful emotional choices will soon be necessary.

Sports

NORTHERN ESSEX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Cross Country Team

Cross Country team is looking for those who are interested in running this year. For more information please call Coach Caputo at 978-556-3828 or email at dcaputo@necc.mass.edu



Team meeting will be held on September 8 at 3:00 in the Sport and Fitness Center Lobby.

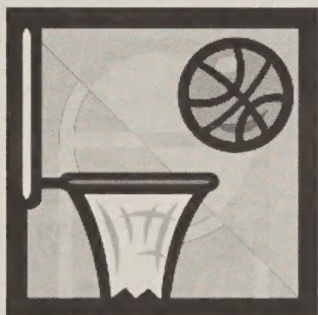
Northern Essex Community College Women's Volleyball Start September 8



For more information contact Sue MacAvoy 978-556-3820.

College Life and Healthy Living
Division of Enrollment Management and Student Services

Tryouts Men's Basketball



Try-outs start
Monday October 4 at 6:00

You must have a physical before
October 4, 2004.

For more information contact
Darren Stratton 978-556-3822.

Interested in Playing Women's Basketball



Try-outs start
Monday October 4 at 4:00

You must have a physical before
October 4, 2004.

For more information contact
Jacob Kurt 978-556-3821.

Sports

Patriots looking for more in '04

Patriots try to better 14-2 record and bring home third Super Bowl in four years

BY JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

Tomorrow night the Patriots will start, what they hope, will be a successful defense of their second Super Bowl title in three years. Riding a 15 game winning streak into Gillette Stadium, the Pats will play host to Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts in an AFC Championship rematch.

Since that snowy day in January, a lot of complaining has come out of Indy, via the players and the media, saying the NFL stole the game from the Colts allowing the Patriots' defensive backs to clutch and grab, thus preventing Manning's receivers from getting open. You may have noticed this preseason there was a large amount of illegal use of hands penalties flagged throughout the NFL. Time will tell if that's the reason Manning was still unable to lead his team victory to Foxboro where he hasn't done so in five tries.

Of the few weak links the team had to overcome last year, many of them have been strengthened. The running back by committee of last year departed with Antowain Smith who is now in Tennessee. Corey Dillon, who experienced a great success on some terrible

Cincinnati Bengal teams, came over in a trade that only cost the Pats a second round draft pick in 2004.

Kevin Faulk will remain the team's third down back and will also be in there when the Pats pull out the successful screen plays.

Another major issue addressed by the Patriots was the punting of Ken Walter. Walter's 37.7 yard punt was among the leagues worst last season.

Walter's replacement is Josh Miller, a former Pittsburgh Steeler for eight seasons.

Miller, who has a career average of 42.9 yards per punt, had an impressive preseason.

Defensively, it seems that side of the ball was shored up enough to possibly better a 14-2 record.

For starters, Roosevelt Colvin has returned. Colvin suffered a season ending hip injury in week two against Philadelphia last season and can easily add ten more sacks for the season.

With the success of last year's

look like draft day geniuses.

The Patriots will also attempt to make history this season. With fifteen wins in a row carried over from last season, New England is three games away from tying the 1972-73 Miami Dolphins for the NFL's longest consecutive winning streak. The fourth and record breaking game will be in Foxboro against who else; the now Rick Williams-less Miami Dolphins.

As far as the AFC East goes, the Pats will try to improve their 5-1 mark of last year. Their only inter-division loss came in week one in Buffalo when fans were already looking to this season.

As mentioned, the Dolphins have lost workhorse running back, Ricky Williams, who retired this off season. Williams was a large part of the Dolphins success.

Not only did he gain large chunks of yards at a time, he also gave Miami the ability to put together time consuming drives which gave their defense a chance to rest.

As for the rest of the division, the New York Jets will have Chad Pennington back who missed most of last season due to an injury suf-

they're gunning for the Pats. In an age where dynasties are a thing of the past. The New England Patriots are ever so close to making



Patriots.com photo

Corey Dillon will give the Patriots a consistent running game to add to their air attack.

“

Look for a Super Bowl XXXI rematch in Jacksonville...

fered in a preseason game.

The Jets gave New England a tough time both games last year and could actually have a chance of dethroning the Pats.

In Buffalo for Drew Bledsoe and his Bills, it's hit or miss. If Buffalo can get Bledsoe the protection he needs and comes through defensively, they should be able to make the playoffs, but don't expect it in a division like the AFC East.

And for the rest of the NFL,

them a thing of the present.

Look for a Super Bowl XXXI rematch in Jacksonville. Green Bay came on strong towards the end of last season and were narrowly defeated by the Eagles. This year they should take the NFC.

As long as the Patriots can stay focused and not think of themselves as "unbeatable," there should be yet another celebration in Boston City Hall next February.

New England
New York*
Buffalo
Miami

Cincinnati
Baltimore
Cleveland
Pittsburgh

Indianapolis
Tennessee*
Jacksonville
Houston

Kansas City
Oakland
Denver
San Diego

Tennessee
Kansas City

Tennessee
Indianapolis

New York
New England

New York
Cincinnati

Indianapolis
New England

New England
Green Bay

Atlanta
Green Bay

Seattle
Green Bay

Carolina
Seattle

Philadelphia
Dallas
Washington
New York

Green Bay
*Minnesota
Chicago
Detroit

Atlanta
*Carolina
Tampa Bay
New Orleans

Seattle
St. Louis
San Francisco
Arizona

2004 NFL PREDICTIONS



**SUPER BOWL CHAMPION
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS**

* Wild Card Winner

Sports

What's the best sports movie ever made?

POINT

BY JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

As great as comedies like "Major League" and "Celtic Pride" are, nothing is better than "Eight Men Out."

Made in 1988, the movie stars John Cusack and Charlie Sheen as players for the 1919 Chicago White Sox.

The movie takes you inside the scandal of the 1919 World Series which some of the players threw intentionally.

In the movie we see how the deal was made, the World Series as it was, and the impending trial that led to the team being banned from Major League Baseball.

The actors do a fantastic job telling the story and make it seem like the movie was shot in the 1920's.

As for the writing, it is great as well. From known dialogue to statistically accurate portrayals of the World Series, you'll want to see it again.

If you haven't already seen it, do yourself a favor and check it out. If you have seen it but not for awhile, check it out again. It's a true sports film classic.

COUNTER POINT

BY JOSHUA BROWN
News Editor

Picking the best sports movie ever made is like picking the ripest apple from the orchard. With so many options there are bound to be many close to being the best. But close doesn't count so I chose the best, Rudy.

Released in 1993 starring Sean Astin and Jon Favreau this film is also based on true events. Rudy played by Astin had always been told he was too small to ever play college football. But he was determined to make his dream playing for Notre Dam a reality.

This film does a great job of keeping the viewers attention with its multiple story lines. Not just focusing on football alone but focusing on the other struggles Rudy had to deal with in his life. From school problems to issues with his family we see the many obstacles Rudy had to overcome to achieve his dream.

With the combination of drama and humor this film connects to people of any age. It presents a good message in being the under dog and persevering to achieve a dream. Many people can connect to this film because Rudy is just an average guy with average problems that every one of us can relate to. With everything going against him he showed us that it is ok to chase a dream.

For anyone that likes sports or classic movies I suggest you check this one out.

Nomar leaves, Sox surge

Big trades, Olympics, and Tour de France were a few events this summer

BY JASON JOAQUIN
Sports Editor

As summer started, baseball season was well under way and it seemed as if the Sox were going to roll right into the playoffs.

As summer progressed they fell off pace. Nomar Garciaparra and Trot Nixon came back and as Boston fans hoped, they would be the answer. It turns out they weren't the answer.

From the start of his return, Nomar didn't seem happy. He never looked or acted like part of the team.

This first became apparent in the unforgettable game played on July 1 at Yankee Stadium. It may have been a midseason get together, but it didn't feel like it.

In the later innings, players on both sides stood on the top step of their dugouts watching.

Nomar sat on the bench.

Players who didn't start the game were either inserted as pinch-hitters or defensive replacements. Nomar sat on the bench.

July would be the last month in a Red Sox uniform for Nomar. In his final month they were 14-12 and fading fast.

The first month of the post-Nomar, Boston saw the Sox 21-7, and gaining on the skidding New York Yankees.

As the end of the season approaches, things could be very interesting down the stretch.

Oh, and did anyone else find it amusing that Nomar's injury mysteriously went away once he got to Chicago.

As for the Sox, it seems their "injury" also went away at the same

time. The threats turned out to be just that, and the games went on as scheduled without incident.

This past summer was eventful but the fall should pack a lot more in. Hopefully the NHL gets their act together. The deadline for a new Collective Bargaining Agreement is fast approaching and as of press time, it doesn't look good. Then of course there is football season. The Pats are back and better than before. There's no reason they shouldn't do it again. For the Sox, it doesn't matter how they make the playoffs. Whether it be the Wild Card or the division, I for one am hoping for an ALCS rematch. But let's not get ahead of ourselves. There's a lot of season left. Lastly, congratulations to NECC pitcher Ryan Mooradian on being drafted by the Arizona Diamondbacks.

10:18		OFFICIAL TIME	
INDIANS	123 456 789 10	R H E	
YANKEES	333 061 006	22 22 1	
	000 000 000	0 5 0	

ESPN.com photo

Is this a sign of things to come this fall?

“
It seems the Red Sox “injury”
went away the same time
Nomar did...”

time.

The rest of the sports world had a lot going on as well. Not just in the states, but all over.

Nothing this summer was as impressive as Lance Armstrong winning his sixth straight Tour de France, the first rider to ever do so.

Over in Athens, the Americans dominated taking in an overall num-

Have a topic you want to see in Point/Counterpoint? Send it to Observer@necc.mass.edu. Or drop it off at room C222.

Boston Sports Trivia

Question: The Patriots will try to successfully defend their Super Bowl title this season. Who was the last team to do it?

Boston Sports Update

Red Sox: The Red Sox finished up the month of Aug. with a 21-7 record. As of press time, they were on the heels of the Yankees and in good position for the Wild Card. The Nomar Garciaparra trade seems to be paying off for the Sox, and as the season draws closer to the end, it's beginning to feel a lot like 2003.

Patriots: The Patriots kick off the 2004 season tomorrow night in Foxboro against the Indianapolis Colts. After what some would consider a disappointing preseason, the Pats will look to continue where they left off last season, and bring home another Lombardi Trophy.

Bruins: The Bruins ownership seemed to turn a corner last season, but went right back in the offseason. Mike Knuble, Brian Rolston, Sean O'Donnell and Michael Nylander were all lost to free agency. If the NHL's players and owners can come to terms, training camp is just a few weeks away.

Celtics: The Celts are continuing to rebuild. With a blockbuster trade, they acquired Gary Payton and Rick Fox from the Los Angeles Lakers. Whether or not they will actually be here to play under new coach Doc Rivers remains to be seen. Training camp for the Celtics is also nearby.

Back Page

Library gets new look for new year



Joshua Brown photo

New furniture has been added for students' enjoyment and comfort for study groups.



Joshua Brown photo

The library has a new environment surrounding the books to make researching and studying more enjoyable for students.



Joshua Brown photo

New carpet lines the isles between the bookshelves.



Joshua Brown photo

A statue of Lincoln gazes at the new sitting area for students.